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TIEN FENG

We have just received numbers 13, 14, and 15 of Tien Feng, for dates July 9 and 23 and August 6. 10,600 of these were printed, a drop from number 12, when 12,000 were printed. An interesting recent feature is the reproduction on the back page of each number of some outstanding Bible painting. The picture for No. 12 is Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, painted by a French painter Pierre "Ming-ya-erh", for No. 13, Jesus and his disciples walking through a grain field, by a German painter, for No. 14, a Madonna, and for No. 15, Jesus as a boy in the Jerusalem temple, by a German painter Hermann K'e-lui-men-tz'u. The whole of the back inside page is given to a description of the painting. Reproductions are in black and white.

In each number there is an Editor's Column, in which he calls attention to what he considers the most important contributions of the present number. For No. 13 he says, "This number has several articles on Self-propagation (tzu ch'uan). Besides Rev. Yang Shao-t'ang's article on "My Understanding of Self-propagation," there is also a discussion of "The Relation of the Christian to the World," and Rev. Hsieh Yung-ch'in's sermon on the text, "The prince of this world is cast out." Self-propagation is perhaps not a very good translation, as the emphasis is more on the content of preaching and the reinterpretation of the Bible than it is on evangelistic outreach. Self-preaching might be a better literal translation.

In No. 14 the editor calls attention to the report of the session of the East China Annual Conference of the Methodist Church (see special article below). There are further articles on the relation of the Christian to the world, by Rev. Hsieh Yung-ch'in and Rev. Matthew T'ang. The editor comments, "In the articles already published the writers agree that the Christian should not be separated from the world, but should have a friendly relation to it, but as to what kind of friendly relationship it should be they are not entirely agreed. We hope that our readers will study these articles carefully and send us their comments." He goes on to say that since the readers are especially interested in theological education, he has arranged for a series of articles on the subject for succeeding numbers. In the meantime he calls attention to the news report in this number on the Refresher course at Nanking Theological Seminary. His final note is on automobile production. "The beginning of actual production at the automobile works is a great event, and in this number, besides a news item on the General News page, we have an article by Rev. Li Fang-yuan of Changchun on "A Visit to the Automobile Works."

In No. 15 the article of special interest is a report of a discussion meeting held by members of the all-China Three-self Committee and of the Shanghai Three-self Committee on the question of the liberation of Taiwan, a discussion based on Chou En-lai's statement at the People's Congress in June.

The next point of emphasis is on missionaries and imperialism. "The preaching of the gospel is a sacred task, but imperialism has used this sacred work to further aggression, some-

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thing which no Christian can tolerate. We have here an article on 'Colonialism and China Missionaries,' which shows how imperialism has used missionaries to further colonialist designs. We also have a report of an investigating committee in India, which shows that the people of India are gradually becoming aware of how imperialism has used the church to further aggression."

He next calls attention to the report of the fourth delegated meeting of the Three-self Committee in Nanking, and ends by promising more articles on the subject of the Christian and the world, in which the points at issue in previous articles will be clarified.

There is a comparatively small number of items of church news, but those given are uniformly optimistic, reporting increases in membership and in contributions. For details of these, see below under Church News.

EAST CHINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ninth session of the East China Annual Conference of the Methodist Church was held in Shanghai June 25 to July 1. A comment on the number nine is in order. The 1940 Conference, the first after the unification of the Methodist Church, was called the first session. If it had met every year, this would have been the 17th. But for four years under the Japanese they were not able to meet, and they have again lost four sessions under the present regime. Since the Communists occupied Shanghai they have held four sessions, in 1949, 1950, 1953 and 1956, the sixth to ninth sessions. Bishop Kaung was in charge, and the meetingplace was the Moore Memorial Church. Baptist preacher Ch'i Ch'ing-ts'ai led the morning devotions. Community Church pastor Li Ch'u-wen presented the report on the Three-self Movement. On the second day Bishop Kaung reported on the important achievements of the East China Annual Conference during the past three years. They have straightened out questions of finance, personnel and administration, simplified the complicated church structure bequeathed to them by the mother church, unified financial administration, and placed all property under one managing body. Most church workers have gone through a period of political study, and so have been able to participate positively in the movement for socialism, and in the movement for world peace. At least 22 members have been cited as model workers, and over 60 have been given honorable mention; 23 church workers have been elected to one level or another of the People's Congresses. During these three years the number of churchmembers has increased, but no figures are given. Contributions have also increased, but apparently not enough to solve their difficulties, for the reporter goes on to say, "But what about the future? In small group discussion it was clearly recognized that there are still difficulties in regard to self-support, but as one member said, 'we must be brave, for we have now gotten rid of the imperialistic control exercised by the mission Board. We are like the Israelites after they had escaped from the tyranny of Pharaoh; life in the wilderness is hard, but ahead of us lies the land of Canaan.' "

On Sunday Huang P'ei-yung was ordained traveling elder, and two older preachers ordained local elders; six young men were ordained traveling deacons and one older man ordained local deacon. A picture of the ordination service shows what seems to be Y. T. Wu standing beside Bishop Kaung wearing a robe and assisting in the ordination. He is a layman, but was elected chairman of one of the synods of the Church of Christ in China. Seven church workers, some men and some women, were retired at this session. An Executive Committee and four other standing committees were elected to administer affairs between now and the next session of the Annual Conference. The four committees are on Work, Personnel, Self-support and Property.

The Conference closed in traditional manner with the reading of the appointments and a service of Holy Communion.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NEWS

The Nanking and Yenching Theological schools published in the June 25 Tien Feng an announcement inviting students to register for the fall term. Nanking offers six different levels of courses, a 3-year course for college graduates, a 4-year course for middle school graduates, a 4-year Bible course for Junior Middle School graduates, a preparatory course of one year, a 1-year refresher course for church workers, and a four months institute for church workers. Yenching offers four courses, three the same as the first three above, and the fourth a one semester refresher course for church workers.

Nanking has already held one of their four months institutes for church workers during this year's spring semester. 87 were in attendance, 45 from Kiangsu, 29 from Chekiang, and 13 from other areas, such as Shantung, Anhwei, Fukien and Shanghai. They came from 23 different denominations. The Institute had its own separate chapel service, and all their courses were separate from those given the regular students. Some of the titles of courses offered were: The Heart of the Bible; Theological Questions; Studies in the Meaning of Greek and Hebrew Biblical Terms; The Work of the Pastor.

The Hsinhua News Agency describes the opening of Chia Yu-ming's Seminary on October 8 as though it were the beginning of a new school. Under the title Spiritual and Theological Institute Set Up in Shanghai, the news item reads: Shanghai, October 9, 1956. The Christian Spiritual and Theological Institute was opened here yesterday. 65 students between 18 and 35 years of age have enrolled. The Institute now has a B. Th., a B.D., and lay training and refresher courses. Its president is Rev. Chia Yu-ming, Vice-president of the International Council of Christian Churches.

This school is called by its regular name Ling-hsiu Hsueh-yuan (Spiritual Training College) in the June 25 Tien Feng. There we are told that its students spent most of the spring semester, February to May, in political study. Of course their regular studies suffered, but the writer states that they gained enough along other lines to more than offset that. "Our school has undergone a very real and necessary change. But there has been no change in the purity of our faith, or in our acceptance of Bible truth and the grace of God." The writer sums up the gains of this period of political study in two sentences: A recognition that we must walk the "Love Country Love Church" road. A recognition of the rightfulness and necessity of the Three-self Movement.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The following new publications are advertised in recent issues of Tien Feng. First, Dr. Andrew Cheng, Vice-president of Nanking Theological Seminary, has written a book on New Testament Greek Words. It is published by the Christian Literature Society at 18¢. The same company has also published a translation of the Evening Prayers in Selina Fox's Chain of Prayer Across the Ages. This book sells for 15¢.

The Chinese Church is especially busy in the field of church music. The CLS has published a Chinese version of Handel's Messiah for Y2.00. It has also published a new hymnbook of 170 songs, of which 45 are described as short choruses. The advertisement says that it is specially suitable for country churches. In numeral notation it sells for 35¢. The Music Department of Nanking Theological Seminary has published a series of anthems for choir use. It includes Franck's Panis Angelicus, a Sanctus by Vittoria, anthems adapted from the music of such composers as Beethoven and Mendelssohn, and others not so easily identified. They are sold in pamphlets containing two or three anthems each at from six to ten cents, or the whole list of ten anthems can be bought bound in one volume for 32¢. They are being sold direct from the Music Department of the Seminary.

The Christian Witness Press in Hong Kong has just published a biography of Dwight L. Moody in Chinese. A report from Shanghai by way of The Millions (CIM magazine) states that Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress has been printed in Shanghai to be used as a government sponsored textbook in classical English.

CHURCH NEWS

The Wanshan Church in Canton (CCC) is now 45 years old. They have recently overhauled their membership list, and found that of 701 members originally on the list, 415 were active members. In the years from 1950 to 1955 they have baptized 147 persons, of which 63 were adults and 84 children.

The Apostolic Faith Church in Soochow regularly holds a revival meeting every summer. This year they held it July 9-14, with an average attendance of over 60. The church has an inquirer list of 40, of whom 12 were ready for baptism, and these were baptized on the last day of the meetings. At the same time 9 new members for their Hsukuan Church were baptized, making a total of 21, 5 men and 16 women.